

**REMARKS**

I. Introduction

This amendment is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 19, 2009, and is supplemental to the Amendment filed on November 19, 2009.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments and arguments presented in the previous amendment with respect to claims 31 and 40 be entered and considered, respectively. Applicants also respectfully request that the new claims presented in this amendment be entered and allowed.

New claims 47-51 are presented herein. No new matter is added by the new claims, which are supported throughout the specification and figures. In particular, the new claims are supported at least by the original claims and paragraph 0044 of the published specification. Claims 19, 31, 40 and 47-51 are pending.

II. New Claims

New claim 47 relates to a support apparatus that includes:

a plurality of ribs of wedge-shaped or trapezium-shaped cross-section which extend parallel in a longitudinal direction of the support apparatus, the plurality of ribs arranged at least on a running surface facing a drive pulley; and

a plurality of tensile carriers oriented in the longitudinal direction of the support apparatus, *spacings (X) between outer contours of the tensile carriers and surfaces of the ribs being less than 17% of a pitch spacing (T) between the ribs.*

Applicants submit that the feature of spacings (X) between outer contours of the tensile carriers and surfaces of the ribs being less than 17% of a pitch spacing (T) between the ribs is not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art references. This feature is discussed in the specification at paragraph 0044, which states in part "[t]ests have yielded optimum characteristics for wedge ribbed belts in which these spacings X amount to at most 20% of the total thickness s of the support means or at most 17% of the pitch spacing T present between the ribs 20.1, 20.2." Applicants submit that, since none of the references disclose or suggest this feature of new claim 47, the claim is allowable for at least this reason.

Each of the new dependent claims depends from new allowable independent claim 47, and therefore each of the dependent claims is allowable for at least the same reasons as base claim 47 is allowable.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and allowance of all pending claims.

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period has elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed (or the enclosed Petition is insufficient), the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37

C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our  
Deposit Account No. 06-2143.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brian E. Hennessey/

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Date: December 16, 2009  
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